

January 20, 2020

The North Mahaska Board of Education met in regular session on January 20, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in the elementary conference room New Sharon, Iowa. Those members present: Dirk Wilkin, Arvin DeBoef, Michelle Sampson and Margaret Ratcliff (6:04 p.m.). Absent: Keith Foster. Also present: Angela Livezey, Amber Goemaat, Sherrill Strobel, Renee Ferguson, Sally Obernolte with Neumann Monson Architects, Brandon Schulte, Ben Gannon and Trent Kain with Design Construction Integration (DCI), RD Keep with The Sun and Cindy Quang.

Dirk Wilkin called the meeting to order 6:00 p.m.

A motion was made by DeBoef and seconded by Sampson to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

A motion was made by DeBoef and seconded by Sampson to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATION

There was no written communication or public forum.

NEUMANN MONSON ARCHITECTS – PROJECT UPDATE

Sally Obernolte with Neumann Monson Architect was at the board meeting to present the design development of the construction project. Sally has been working with the stakeholders for the design of the project. Ms. Obernolte has presented the board with additional alternatives to the construction project. She mentioned having a corridor connection between the elementary and high school building on the north side of the district. She has also mentioned have an elementary canopy for the south side of the elementary main entrance. The reason for the elementary canopy was to help block the wind from tunneling right at the main door, plus it's a safety concern when the door slams due to the cause of the wind. These are both alternative projects being studied and considered, the board has not approved these actions for alternative projects.

DESIGN CONSTRUCTION INTEGRATION GROUP – PROJECT UPDATE & TIMELINE

Brandon Schulte, Ben Gannon and Trent Kain with Design Construction Integration (DCI) were at the board meeting to present the timeline of where the construction project was at. Currently, DCI is working on the budget process of the construction project. The construction project will be going out for bids, but DCI wanted to get an understanding of the detailed cost of the total project. DCI group is looking heavy at the fitness center building. They mentioned it might cost less to build new vs moving the building to another location on school grounds. Before any construction can be started, DCI will be having an asbestos company come and test the construction area before starting. DCI plans to start the construction project in the summer of 2020.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF STAFF

ASHLEY SOJKA – ASSISTANT JV/VARSITY SOFTBALL COACH

A motion was made by Ratcliff and seconded by DeBoef to approve Ashley Sojka as an Assistant JV/Varsity Softball Coach. Motion carried.

KATHY BREEN – REGULAR ROUTE DRIVER

A motion was made by DeBoef and seconded by Sampson to approve a letter of assignment for Kathy Breen as a regular route driver. Motion carried.

APPROVE EARLY RETIREMENT

A motion was made by DeBoef and seconded by Ratcliff to approve the early retirement request for Steve Ehret at the end of June 30, 2020. Motion carried.

APPROVE RESIGNATION W/ EARLY RETIREMENT

A motion was made by DeBoef and seconded by Ratcliff to accept the resignation for Steve Ehret as a high school teacher, coach, sponsor and athletic director effect at the end of the school year. Motion carried.

RECOMMENDATION FROM THE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mrs. Livezey met with the school improvement advisory committee. The topics discussed at the meeting were student involvement, student connection at the school and the mental health grant. School goals were reviewed and include: all students showing at least one year's growth in math and reading and to provide a positive school environment for all. Overall, the committee feels the school district is on target with the aforementioned goals.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

MRS. LIVEZEY – OMAHA ZOO TRIP, CLASSROOM PLANS DURING CONSTRUCTION PROJECT, PBIS DATA

Mrs. Livezey mentioned North Mahaska 5th and 6th graders will be going on a field trip to the Omaha Zoo on May 19th.

Mrs. Livezey discussed the plan for where classrooms would relocate during the construction project for the next school year. During the summer of 2020, the secure elementary entrance will be constructed and the elementary office will move to the existing classroom located near the main entrance of the elementary. The office, conference room, and nurse's office will be remodeled this summer and will be ready for the fall as a designated classroom where one of the kindergarten classes will be temporarily housed until the new addition is completed in December. The additional 3rd grade classroom will be temporarily housed in the elementary computer lab. These construction areas will be finalized around Christmas Break.

Mrs. Livezey mentioned office referrals have decreased according to the PBIS Data. The elementary staff has been working together to make changes. Mrs. Livezey mentioned a change was made in the number of students who were outside at one time for the noon recess. Additionally, elementary teachers periodically assist paraeducators outside during recess duty to help monitor the playground.

MRS. GOEMAAT – TRANSPORTATION UPDATE, WARHAWK PRIDE 2ND QUARTER HONORS

Mrs. Goemaat gave an update on the transportation. She mentioned Kathy Breen and her husband are bus drivers from the Kansas City area.

Mrs. Goemaat mentioned the Warhawk Pride students have been selected for the 2nd quarter. There is 2 student selected from each grade. Students are selected for this honor by teacher nomination.

Mrs. Goemaat spoke about the \$8,000 CTE Regional Planning Grant that Mr. Groom, NM shop teacher, received. Mr. Groom plans to purchase two welders and two 3-D printers.

Mrs. Goemaat also spoke about a couple of grants Mrs. Johnson, NM Ag teacher, received. Mrs. Johnson received \$250 grant money from Iowa Agriculture Literacy Foundation for a “Butterfly Garden”. Mrs. Johnson will also be receiving grant money from the National FFA Organization to establish a “Bee Hive” project. Mrs. Goemaat mentioned the beehive will be a great FFA project for students that want to be involved in FFA that lives in town.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT – STUDENT BEHAVIOR, ADHD, CONSEQUENCES

Mrs. Livezey mentioned she had Joel Pederson, Cardinal CSD Superintendent, attend a teacher’s professional development. Mr. Pederson talked about how much of an impact a teaching staff can make on a student. If there was one supportive staff that cares about a student the success rate will increase and the difficulty for the students will decrease. The more supportive impact on a student the higher the success rate. Mrs. Livezey also mentioned that Nicole Skaar was also in attendance at the professional development day. Mrs. Skaar spoke about classroom strategies for student engagement and students with ADHD.

DAY ON THE HILL – JANUARY 28, 2020

If any board members interested in attending the Day on the Hill, please let Mrs. Livezey or Ms. Quang know.

LEGISLATIVE DINNER – BROOKLYN, IA – JANUARY 30, 2020 @ 6:00 P.M.

Mrs. Livezey mentioned the board members have been signed up to attend the legislative dinner in Brooklyn, IA.

2020-2021 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Mrs. Livezey presented the board with Draft #1 of the 2020-2021 school calendar. The calendar is not finished and will be subject to changes before being finalized.

COMMUNICATION POLICY & AT THE BOARD TABLE

Mrs. Livezey spoke with the board about the communication channels flow chart that is established for North Mahaska. Mrs. Livezey mentioned that according to board policies, the issue should be discussed at the lowest possible trier before notifying the administration or board. The policies are designed for improved communication, systematic procedures, and to keep relationships intact. Mrs. Livezey and the board talked about communication scenarios available “At the Board Table” on the Iowa School Board Association (IASB) website.

BOND TIMELINE

Mrs. Livezey spoke with the board about the GO bond timeline. A special board meeting has been scheduled for April 7th to finalize the bond process. Piper Jaffray will review the results of the bond sale and the board will adopt resolutions directing the sale to the low bidder.

SAFETY UPDATE – LOCKOUT DRILL & REUNIFICATION SEMINAR

Mrs. Livezey mentioned she has had a lockout drill with teachers. Mrs. Livezey plans to roll out the lockout drill with students and parents to help collaborate the effort on safety.

BOARD COMMENT / THANK YOU NOTES

Mr. DeBoef mentioned that the North Mahaska Education Foundation contribution has increased due to the generous donation from Cargill's Foundation.

Mr. Wilkin asked about the Washington D.C. trip funds in the Activity Fund. He asks if there will be a Washington D.C. trip in the future. As of right now, there are no plans for a Washington D.C trip. The board of education will plan to discuss what to do with distributing the funds.

Mr. Wilkin also asked about the time closure for the school gates. Mrs. Livezey mentioned that gates are scheduled to be locked at 11 p.m. The gates could be closed a little early if no activities are going on and if there are no vehicles in the north parking lot.

ADJOURN

Mr. Wilkin adjourned the meeting at 8:43 p.m.

Cindy Quang
Board Secretary

Dirk Wilkin
Board President